

Coomaraswamy, Ananda K., Dr.

[Museum of Fine Arts

Boston, MA]

1922-1932

March 18th, 1922

Mr. - Coomaraswami
Director of Eastern Art
Boston Museum of Fine Arts
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Would you be interested in a selection of Oriental coins picked up in Persia? These include coins of the Caliphs, various Mohammedan dynasties in Persia, the Shahs of Persia, and a few Indian coins.

A large collection of these have come in to our Museum for us to pick from, and to sell what we can. I am now at work on them, and if you are at all interested I can later send you selections which you can buy by the piece.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

February 10, 1932.

Dr. Ananda K. Koomaraswamy
Museum of Fine Arts
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Koomaraswamy:

I have been working on a large hoard of silver coins made of bent wire, from Ceylon. These pieces are stamped from dies most of which are cut in the regular manner with an engraving tool. I have, however, come across a few dozen pieces, some with very crude designs or crude attempts at lettering, etc., that give me the impression that the dies used to stamp these were not cut by an engraving tool but were etched. They are very shallow and the raised parts present an absolutely flat surface and the edges of these designs are very ragged, presenting exactly the appearance as if the design had been etched. Do you know if in the sixteenth and seventeenth century in India and especially in Ceylon the various local silver smiths could have employed this method of making their stamps to impress upon these wire coins? None of the coins were governmental but were made locally for trading purposes. I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

April 7. 1952

Dear Mr. Wood,

An Indian correspondent desires identification
the coin of which I enclose photo. I wonder if you
can help me.

For your Sinhalese problems the best man
as to the script would of course be Don M. de Silva
Wickremasinghe, School of Oriental Studies, ~~London~~
Trinity Circus, London E.C.

Yours truly

A. Coomaraswamy

April 11, 1932.

Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy
Museum of Fine Arts
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Coomaraswamy:

Both Mr. Newell and myself have studied the photograph of the coin you sent on for identification. Neither of us has seen anything like this. From this photograph we cannot make out the inscription. One or two letters look like Arabic but other letters do not, we are therefore somewhat puzzled. If one could see the coin one might be able to tell more. We presume the coin came from India and yet we know of nothing in the Indian series that looks like this. I am sorry to have fallen down on the first thing you have asked me to identify.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

April 16, 1932.

Dr. Ananda K. Coomeraswamy
Museum of Fine Arts
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Coomeraswamy:

Your favor enclosing the
Morocco coin at hand. I will write Mrs. Hamilton.

I am herewith returning something that you inadvertently enclosed in the letter you sent me.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator